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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/017,852	12/12/2001	David J. Norris	42P11635	9597

8791 7590 11/18/2003

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EXAMINER

HOANG, THAI D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2667

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2003

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/017,852

Applicant(s)

NORRIS ET AL.

Examiner

Thai D Hoang

Art Unit

2667

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Application filed on 12/12/2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being unpatentable by over Shaffer, European Patent No. 1091550 A2.

Regarding claims 1-2, Shaffer discloses a method and system for multimedia conferencing. Shaffer discloses that the method comprises the step of receiving a request to create an audio conference between a party and other parties based on the identification of the parties (col.1, lines 3-5, col. 5, lines 21-23.)

Regarding claims 3, 7, 15 and 18, Shaffer discloses that in order to establish a conference between parties the method comprises the steps of: receiving a plurality of call requests with identifications from the parties, a multipoint control unit controller (MCUC) accesses to a database to check information concerning MCU related to the conferencing parties, and then performing multipoint conferencing setup with the parties (col. 5, line 20 - col. 6, line 20.)

Regarding claims 4, 9 and 16, Shaffer teaches in figures 5-6 that the system receiving a stream of packet over each connections (A and B, B and C) and transferring the stream to the MCU for mixing to establish a conference (fig. 5-6)

Regarding claims 5 and 11, Shaffer discloses that the network is a packet

network, therefore, it could be operated with TCP/IP. Also, Shaffer disclosed that the system is adapted with the Recommendation H.323 (fig. 2, col. 1, line 13; col. 3, lines 10-42)

Regarding claims 6, 8 and 19, Shaffer teaches in figures 5-6 a procedure to establish a conference comprising the steps of: receiving a first call request from a party A to connect with a party B, then establishing a connection between party A and B by a MCU; receiving a second request from the party B to connect with a party C and then setup a connection B and C by the MCU. The MCU mixes a first and a second packet stream of the first and second connections to establish a conference.

Regarding claims 10 and 12, Shaffer discloses the system comprises a gateway 106a to convert audio signal to data packet; a gatekeeper 108 connected to the gateway 106a inherently includes a conference information table to check the identification of users before setup the connection (col. 5, lines 23-25); and a MCU 104 connected to the gatekeeper 108 and gateway 106 to establish the conference (fig. 2)

Regarding claim 13, the gatekeeper in the system disclosed by Shaffer inherently comprises a user interface in order to allow the user modifies the conference information table.

Regarding claim 14 and 17, Shaffer discloses that the MCU comprises a storage unit 290 that stores instructions for establishing a conference between parties.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

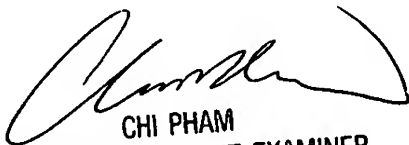
US Patent No. 6,404,746 B1, Cave et al. disclose a system and method for packet network media redirection

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thai D Hoang whose telephone number is (703) 305-3232. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on (703) 305-4378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Thai Hoang


CHI PHAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600 11/14/03